



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY  
THE CAROLINA VEGETATION SURVEY

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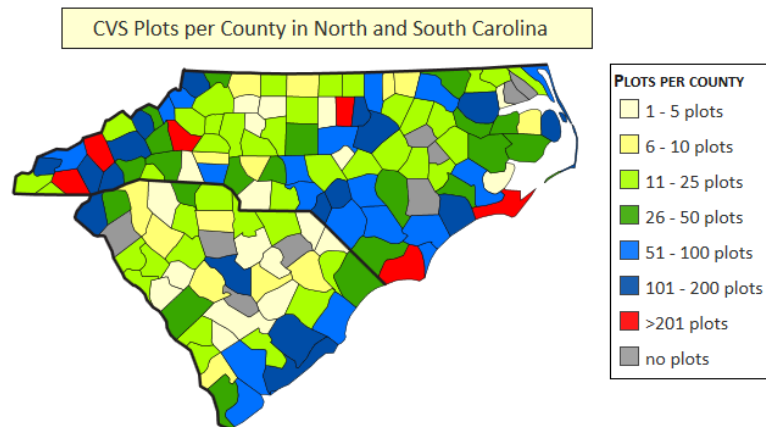
**DATE:** May 13, 2015

**TO:** Potential PULSE-2015 Participants

**FROM:** The Carolina Vegetation Survey

**SUBJECT:** AN INVITATION!! – Join us for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Pulse. This year we are studying the vegetation of the inner Coastal Plain and adjacent Piedmont of South Carolina.

The Carolina Vegetation Survey cordially invites you to attend PULSE-2015, the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Carolina Vegetation Survey Field Foray. To our many friends from past pulse events, we extend our thanks for your support and invite you to work with us again. To those who have not attended a Pulse, we hope you'll consider joining us for the first time this year.



As hard as it is to believe, this will be the **28<sup>th</sup> year of pulse** – we have been at this for over a quarter century! Through PULSE events and other initiatives we have been able to accumulate over **7000 high-quality vegetation plots from the Carolinas**, an achievement that has involved the **contributions of over 1000 different persons**. This year we will work at filling the most conspicuous hole apparent on the map of past plots, the inner Coastal Plain and adjacent Piedmont of South Carolina. Details follow below.

### **PULSE 2015: May 19-23**

The Pulse event of 2015 will be held May 19-23 in the inner Coastal Plain and adjacent Piedmont of South Carolina. Primarily we will work on Heritage Preserves owned and managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Because our target areas are a bit spread out, we will need to occasionally change our lodging arrangement. In addition, we can accommodate only a modest number of volunteers. Certainly, if you are interested in participating, please do contact us!! If there is space we will provide details as to where and when to join us. **Because Pulse is nearly upon us, it is IMPORTANT that you CONTRACT US VERY SOON.** Contact details are provided below.

## WHAT IS PULSE?

For those of you not familiar with the Pulse events, each year the Carolina Vegetation Survey organizes one or more group efforts to study intensively the vegetation of some natural region within North and/or South Carolina. All persons interested in vegetation and/or field botany are invited to participate for as many days as is convenient. Any level of experience is appropriate; the only requirement is that you bring your enthusiasm for field work. The annual "Pulses" of the CVS have become established as special events for those interested in the natural history of the Carolinas. We sample a wide variety of natural communities in areas well known for their biological diversity. Many of these areas are not readily accessible without special arrangements with landowners/managers. This is an ideal way to see new and exciting areas, meet others interested in botany and ecology, and to share knowledge and experience. (Descriptions of past Pulses have ranged from "Boot Camp for Botanists" to "Woodstock for Botanists" to "Extreme Botany".)

## References:

- 1) <http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/pulses.htm> (general information)
- 2) <http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/press.htm> (press coverage)
- 3) <http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/pulse/PulsePix.pdf> (photos)
- 4) <http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/PULSE2006-2009.ppt> (slide show; large file)

## What we did on PULSE2014

Our goal last year was to sample community types previously under sampled in North Carolina. We had 5 teams distributed across the state. They collected 104 plots that ranged in elevation from 1878 m to 2m and from west of Murphy (Hiwassee Lake) to east of Manteo (Rodanthe). This effort significantly strengthened our dataset and our knowledge of the vegetation of the state. For details, see <http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/pulses.htm>

## GOALS FOR PULSE2015

Pulse 2015 has a two-fold mission. The first mission is to sample broad-ranging community types across the target area of the inner Coastal Plain and adjacent Piedmont of South Carolina, an area that we have heretofore neglected owing to the modest amount of public land and the fragmented ownership. The second is to capture plots on representative examples of unusual vegetation types that are underrepresented in our database. You can expect us to visit the full range of community types including upland oak-hickory forests, black-water and brown-water floodplain forests, Carolina bays, bluff forests, and longleaf pine savannas.

We have targeted 7 areas owned by the state of South Carolina for possible sampling: Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve (HP), Great Pee Dee River HP, Savage Bay HP, Forty Acre Rock HP, Lynchburg Savanna HP, Segars-McKinnon HP and Cooks Mountain. **If you have nominations of other particular places we should visit, please send them our way.**

## REGISTRATION

Participation will be limited as we expect to have only 3 teams active on any given day. Therefore, if you would like to participate, please check with us IMMEDIATELY regards available space. **To register, please send an email to Robert Peet ([peet@unc.edu](mailto:peet@unc.edu); 919-962-6942 or 919-368-4971).**

## THE DETAILS: LODGING, MEALS, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There is no charge to you for use of our accommodations. Those wishing to participate in this Pulse may potentially begin working with us on any day and stay as long as desired (any number of days). However, because of the small size of our group this year, it would be best to let us know at the beginning which days you expect to be with us. The best plan would be to arrive the night before the first day you plan to work. If you prefer to join us in the morning, **please be ready to leave for the field from the base camp no later than 7:30 AM** on the morning you wish to start. We do not have overnight facilities rented for the nights following the last field day of pulse.

Individuals are responsible for their own meals. There will be no kitchen facilities. We will typically eat breakfast at our lodging location, and leave promptly for the field each morning. We'll take our field lunches with us (bring plenty of water), and then eat out for dinner.

CVS will rent motel rooms and provide shared lodging. We will assume 4 persons in a room. If you wish a private room or other arrangements, we will provide the contact information for the motels so that you can arrange this, but we will not be able to pay for such "enhanced" accommodations. Because we have limited space this year, we will wait to distribute motel information until we confirm your participation.

## CVS CONTACTS

Website: <http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/>

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## SAFETY AND PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

The Pulse events have an excellent safety record, and we ask your assistance in our efforts to make PULSE-2015 safe for all participants. If you are unfamiliar with hazards associated with field work, please consult with one of the coordinators. As you plan for PULSE-2015, please keep in mind the conditions we will experience. The weather this time of year in the Carolinas is generally quite warm,

and rainfall may be plentiful. Please equip yourself accordingly. A daypack with the basics for fieldwork is a necessity. Keep in mind that we typically eat lunch in the field, so plan to bring lots to drink and a bag lunch. Ticks and chiggers are generally a problem during the warmer months in the Carolinas. We recommend that you come equipped with a roll of duct tape for sealing pants legs to boots, if needed. Also bring whatever insect repellent/killer you prefer to use (100% DEET products are good repellents).

Pulse includes intensive field work in small groups of 3-4 persons. It is important that all participants share the spirit of collegial inquiry and discovery, that individuals respect the rights and feelings of others, and that all data be recorded as accurately and completely as possible. Participants who are concerned about activities or performance of other participants should immediately report such concerns to one of the organizers. The organizers reserve the right to limit the level of participation of any individual so as to assure the overall wellbeing of the other participants and the quality of the data acquired. Participants should understand that participation in the Pulse events is voluntary and may involve risks including but not limited to motor vehicle accidents and other potential personal injuries and property damage. Participants must assume responsibility for all risks. Further, participants must indemnify and hold harmless the coordinators of the pulse events and their employers from any liability arising from or proximately caused by participation. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver before participating in PULSE-2015.